

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/09436

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B22D11/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B22D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 915 454 A (WRIGHT LESLIE CHARLES ET AL) 29 June 1999 (1999-06-29) claim 1; figures 1,2	15-20
A	GB 2 337 016 A (BHP STEEL ;ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND (JP)) 10 November 1999 (1999-11-10) cited in the application abstract; figures 3,4	1-14
A	GB 2 296 883 A (BHP STEEL ;ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND (JP)) 17 July 1996 (1996-07-17) cited in the application page 5, line 4 -page 6, line 3; figures 3,4	1-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 December 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/12/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Maillard, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/09436

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5915454	A	29-06-1999	AT 180191 T	15-06-1999
			AU 692029 B2	28-05-1998
			AU 4312696 A	24-07-1996
			CA 2209624 A1	11-07-1996
			DE 69602518 D1	24-06-1999
			DE 69602518 T2	07-10-1999
			EP 0806997 A1	19-11-1997
			WO 9620800 A1	11-07-1996
			JP 10511608 T	10-11-1998
GB 2337016	A	10-11-1999	DE 19919354 A1	11-11-1999
			FR 2778126 A1	05-11-1999
			IT MI990839 A1	23-10-2000
			JP 11314139 A	16-11-1999
			US 6032722 A	07-03-2000
GB 2296883	A	17-07-1996	AU 693256 B2	25-06-1998
			AU 3439795 A	18-07-1996
			DE 19542246 A1	18-07-1996
			FR 2729318 A1	19-07-1996
			JP 8224638 A	03-09-1996
			US 5588479 A	31-12-1996